region of Orissa, to meet the long pending demand of the people of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are twenty Central universities at present. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to set up a University in Orissa.

Universities and colleges in the country

†761. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 2005, there were 349 universities and 16000 colleges in the country;

(b) if not, the correct figures thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that large number of posts of lecturers were vacant in those institution due to lack of funds; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the vacant posts of lecturers in the academic year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), 343 universities and 17,625 colleges existed in the country as on 31.3.2005.

(c) and (d) No centralized data is being maintained in regard to State Universities/Colleges. As regards Central Universities, 1056 posts of lecturers are lying vacant in 16 Central universities as on 31.3.2005. These vacancies are attributed to administrative reasons rather than lack of funds.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.